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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,776	05/05/2005	Rainer Albert	TX/4-32662A	5246
1095	7590	05/15/2006	EXAMINER	
NOVARTIS CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3 EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080				PERLINGER, SARAH E
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1625		

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/529,776	ALBERT ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Sarah E. Perlinger	1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-8 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/30/2005</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-8 are pending.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is a substituted phenyl or pyridine, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 186.

Group II, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is an optionally substituted bicyclic heteroaromatic ring wherein both rings of the bicyclic system are six-membered, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 196.

Group III, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is an optionally substituted bicyclic fully aromatic carbocycle, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 195.

Group IV, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is indolyl, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 201.

Group V, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is a substituted pyrazole, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition

comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 187.

Group VI, claims 1-8, drawn to a compound of formula I wherein R2 is an optionally substituted pyrimidine, a process for preparing said compound, a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound, a pharmaceutical combination comprising said compound, and a method for preventing or treating disorders mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors and their ligands, classified in class 546, subclass 187.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The inventions listed as Groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under 35 USC 121 or PCT rule 13.1 because:

**PCT Rule 13.1** states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (“requirement of unity of invention”).

**PCT Rule 13.2** states that the unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B, **Part 1(a)**, indicates that the application should relate to only one invention, or if there is more than one invention, inclusion is permitted if they are so linked to form a single inventive concept.

Annex B, **Part 1(b)**, indicates that “special technical features” means those technical features that as a whole define a contribution over the prior art.

Annex B, **Part 1(c)**, further defines independent and dependent claims. Unity of invention is concerned only in relation to independent claims. Dependent claims are defined as a claim that contains all the features of another claim and is in the same category as the other claim. The category of a claim refers to the classification of claims according to subject matter e.g. product, process, use, apparatus, means, etc.

Annex B, **Part 1(e)**, indicates the permissible combinations of different categories of claims. **Part 1(e)I**, states that inclusion of an independent claim for a given product, an independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for a use of the said product is permissible.

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Annex B, **Part 1(f)**, indicates the “Markush practice” of alternatives in a single claim. **Part 1(f)I**, indicates the technical relationship and the same or corresponding special technical feature is considered to be met when (A) all alternatives have a common property or activity, and (B) a common structure is present or all alternatives belong to a recognized class of chemical compounds. Further defining (B), Annex B, **Part 1(f)(i-iii)**, the common structure must; a) occupy a large portion of their structure, or b) the common structure constitutes a structurally distinctive portion, or c) where the structures are equivalent and therefore a recognized class of chemical compounds, each member could be substituted for one another with the same intended result. That is, with a common or equivalent structure, there is an expectation relationship and the corresponding special technical feature results from a common (or equivalent) structure that is responsible for the common activity (or property). **Part 1 (f)iv**, indicates that when all alternatives of a Markush grouping can be differently classified, it shall no, take alone, be considered justification for finding lack of unity. **Part 1(f)v**, indicates that, “When dealing with alternatives, if it can be shown that at least one Markush alternative is not novel over the prior art, the question of unity of invention shall be reconsidered by the examiner.”

In the instant case, McCombie et al. (WO0066559, see 1449) anticipates group I (see “X” reference on PCT search report). In the instant amended claims, at least one Markush alternative is not novel because prior art by McCombie et al. (see claims) disclosed the product of Group I. Thus the lacking of unity of invention has been found.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the groups are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the groups to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention. In the instant case, applicant will not have patentability over any of the claims because there is anticipation for group I.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48 (b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Sarah E. Perlinger, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5574. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

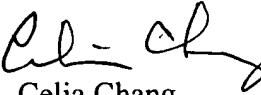
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Ms. Cecilia Tsang, can be reached at (571) 272-0562. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AP

05/03/06

  
Celia Chang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1625